

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 SAB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /153 W

----- 114747

O R 212149Z JUN 74 ZFF-4

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4509

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2228

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, IS, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE MISSION BELIEVES CHANCES ARE EVEN THAT

GOL WILL ASK SECURITY COUNCIL TO MEET

1. AFTER CONSULTING BY PHONE WITH BEIRUT THIS MORNING, LEBANESE ACTING PERM REP MAHMASSANI TOLD US HIS GOVERNMENT HAD "UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION" QUESTION WHETHER TO REQUEST COUNCIL MEETING ON THIS WEEK'S ISRAELI RAIDS. HE PERSONNALLY THOUGHT CHANCES OF LEBANON CONVENING SC WERE "ABOUT 50-50." IF INSTRUCTIONS CAME TODAY, HE WOULD REQUEST MEETING FOR TOMORROW, IF THEY ARRIVED TOMORROW, HE WOULD ASK FOR MONDAY SESSION.

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MEANWHILE, HE HAD BEEN RESISTING PRESSURES FOR ARAB

GROUP MEETING SINCE BEIRUT WAS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING WHAT STEPS TO TAKE.

2. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THERE HAD BEEN NO ISRAELI ATTACKS JUNE 21, MAHMASSANI SAID YESTERDAY'S RAIDS HAD BEEN "SO DEVASTATING" THAT THEY COULD NOT BE IGNORED. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT OVER LONG TERM WAS THAT NO ONE IN LEBANON WHO ADVISED FEDAYEEN NOT TO ATTACK ISRAELI KIBBUTZIM WOULD BE LISTENED TO.

3. DURING COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR SCALI EARLIER IN DAY, SYRIAN PERM REP KELANI ASKED IF US COULD NOT PERSUADE ISRAEL TO END ITS ATTACKS ON LEBANON BEFORE RECENT GAINS TOWARDS PEACE IN THE AREA WERE LOST. SCALI REPLIED THAT WE STRONGLY DEPLORED ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON BOTH SIDES. WE DID NOT YET HAVE ALL THE FACTS ABOUT RECENT RAIDS; NEVERTHELESS, WHATEVER THE PROVOCATION, WE COULD NOT APPROVE ISRAEL'S ATTACKS AGAINST LEBANON. ONE THING SHOULD BE CLEAR: PRESIDENT NIXON IN NO WAY GAVE ISRAEL A "GREEN LIGHT" TO ATTACK PALESTINIANS DURING HIS TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST.

4. KELANI SAID ARABS HAD NO WISH TO TAKE MATTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL. WHAT WAS THE POINT, HE ASKED RHETORICALLY. RESULT WOULD BE PEICE OF PAPER CONDEMNING ISRAEL WITH NO PRACTICAL EFFECT, OR ELSE ISOLATION OF US IN ITS PURSUSANCE OF BALANCED RESOLUTION. IN NEW ERA OF IMPROVING RELATIONS, ARABS DID NOT WANT TO PUT USG IN THAT POSITION. NEVERTHELESS, IF ATTACKS CONTINUED, COUNCIL MEETING SEEMED INEVITABLE.
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